

The most important measure of the validity of the actuarial investment return assumption is the actual performance of the retirement systems over long periods. PERAC has been measuring the investment performance of the systems for 18 years. Nine systems have failed to achieve a return in excess of 8% over that period with most systems returning above 9%. As a result, over this period only 11 systems have failed to meet the actuarial assumed rate of return and, in those cases, the variance is not significant. The following table outlines the long term performance of the Massachusetts retirement systems.

BOARD	18-YR RETURN	ACTUARIAL INVESTMENT RETURN ASSUMPTION	BOARD	18-YR RETURN	ACTUARIAL INVESTMENT RETURN ASSUMPTION
BELOW 8%			8–8.99% (continued)		
Barnstable County	7.51%	8.25%	Watertown	8.91%	8.00%
Chelsea	7.85%	8.25%	Webster	8.38%	8.00%
Clinton	7.71%	8.50%	West Springfield	8.90%	8.00%
Dukes County	7.60%	8.00%	9–9.99%		
Easthampton	7.95%	8.00%	Adams	9.56%	8.00%
Greater Lawrence	7.96%	8.00%	Andover	9.98%	8.50%
Hull	7.57%	8.25%	Arlington	9.58%	8.00%
MWRA	7.47%	8.00%	Attleboro	9.34%	8.00%
New Bedford	7.93%	8.50%	Belmont	9.64%	8.25%
8–8.99%			Berkshire Regional	9.33%	8.00%
Amesbury	8.58%	8.25%	Beverly	9.71%	8.00%
Athol	8.17%	8.25%	Boston	9.53%	8.00%
Blue Hills Regional	8.69%	8.50%	Braintree	9.17%	8.00%
Everett	8.92%	8.50%	Bristol County	9.63%	8.50%
Fitchburg	8.43%	8.25%	Brockton	9.73%	8.00%
Franklin County	8.87%	8.50%	Brookline	9.82%	8.00%
Hampshire County	8.72%	8.00%	Chicopee	9.01%	8.00%
Lawrence	8.32%	8.25%	Concord	9.28%	8.00%
Lynn	8.68%	8.25%	Danvers	9.06%	8.00%
MHFA	8.17%	8.00%	Essex Regional	9.88%	8.50%
Maynard	8.42%	8.00%	Fairhaven	9.84%	8.00%
Methuen	8.79%	8.00%	Fall River	9.59%	8.00%
Newburyport	8.22%	8.50%	Framingham	9.73%	8.00%
Revere	8.35%	8.00%	Gardner	9.97%	8.50%
Springfield	8.99%	8.50%	Gloucester	9.86%	8.50%
Stoneham	8.89%	8.00%	Greenfield	9.35%	8.50%

18-YEAR INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

BOARD	18-YR RETURN	ACTUARIAL INVESTMENT RETURN ASSUMPTION	BOARD	18-YR RETURN	ACTUARIAL INVESTMENT RETURN ASSUMPTION
9–9.99% (continued)			9–9.99% (continued)		
Hampden Cnty. Reg.	9.72%	8.50%	Somerville	9.36%	8.25%
Hingham	9.71%	8.00%	Southbridge	9.48%	8.00%
Leominster	9.08%	8.00%	Waltham	9.56%	8.00%
Lexington	9.86%	8.00%	Westfield	9.36%	8.00%
Lowell	9.99%	8.00%	Winthrop	9.14%	8.25%
Marblehead	9.62%	8.00%	Worcester	9.48%	8.50%
Marlborough	9.05%	8.00%	Worcester Regional	9.45%	8.50%
MassPort	9.81%	8.00%			
Mass Turnpike	9.20%	8.50%	10% AND ABOVE		
Medford	9.82%	7.50%	Cambridge	10.41%	8.50%
Melrose	9.31%	8.00%	Dedham	10.15%	8.00%
Middlesex	9.61%	8.25%	Falmouth	10.02%	8.00%
Milford	9.29%	8.00%	Haverhill	11.18%	8.50%
Montague	9.47%	8.25%	Holyoke	10.48%	8.50%
Natick	9.24%	8.00%	Malden	10.94%	8.00%
Newton	9.56%	8.00%	Milton	10.08%	8.50%
Norfolk County	9.28%	8.50%	Minuteman Regional	10.11%	8.00%
North Attleboro	9.37%	8.00%	Needham	10.46%	8.50%
Northbridge	9.83%	8.25%	North Adams	10.50%	8.00%
Norwood	9.65%	8.00%	Northampton	10.25%	8.25%
Peabody	9.88%	8.25%	State	10.00%	8.25%
Pittsfield	9.17%	8.25%	State Teachers	10.02%	8.25%
Plymouth	9.34%	8.50%	Swampscott	10.38%	8.00%
Plymouth County	9.85%	8.50%	Taunton	10.85%	8.00%
Quincy	9.09%	8.25%	Wakefield	10.38%	8.00%
Reading	9.68%	8.00%	Wellesley	11.66%	7.50%
Salem	9.21%	8.50%	Weymouth	10.94%	8.25%
Saugus	9.62%	8.25%	Winchester	10.02%	8.25%
Shrewsbury	9.98%	8.50%	Woburn	10.11%	7.75%